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MAY 23 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: STEPHEN W. DOWNING    ART UNIT: 3731  
SERIAL NO.: 09/881,045    EXAMINER: NGUYEN, VICTOR  
FILING DATE: JUNE 15, 2001  
FOR:            APPARATUSES AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING MINIMALLY  
                  INVASIVE DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES INSIDE OF A  
                  BEATING HEART

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated April 23, 2003, Applicants elect,  
albeit with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-15 for further prosecution at this time.

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has required restriction in the above-identified application as follows:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Group I:  | Claims 1-15, drawn to a cardiac port for insertion through a heart chamber, classified in class 606, subclass 108;  |
| Group II: | Claims 16-17, drawn to a method of accessing an interior of a heart chamber, classified in class 128, subclass 898; |